



TOWN OF BLUFFTON RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Beaufort, South Carolina is the proud home of Marine Corps Air Station South Carolina, Beaufort County and its municipalities are honored with the community's role in maintaining our country's safety and peacekeeping efforts; and

WHEREAS, the relationship between the civilian and military communities in Beaufort County is unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, the Townsend Range in Georgia and the established unencumbered air space off the coast of South Carolina position MCAS Beaufort as an ideal location for training and operations; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County, the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal have worked in partnership with MCAS Beaufort, and the Department of Defense to ensure that non-compatible development doesn't encroach on the air station's footprint; and

WHEREAS, both Beaufort County's Rural and Critical Lands program has protected 719 acres of property and Beaufort County Open Land Trust has projected 520 acres to mitigate encroachment around MCAS Beaufort; and

WHEREAS, MCAS Beaufort currently contributes \$615 million annually to the economy with more than 8,000 ancillary jobs attributable to its economic impact; and

WHERE, the state of South Carolina and its communities welcome discussions regarding auxiliary landing fields; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Strike Fighter (F-35B) is the next generation of fighter jet to be utilized by the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps will not be able to fulfill its mission without the F-35B; and

WHEREAS, the Navy and the Department of Defense has proposed MCAS Beaufort receive two F-35B training squadrons and three operational squadrons beginning in 2014; and

WHEREAS, This scenario best fulfills the mission of MCAS and its role in the Department of the Navy; and

WHEREAS, the upgrades to MCAS over the next three years will be in excess of \$350 million investment; and

WHEREAS, the private sector jobs affiliated with the training facility is expected to be approximately 200 people including a high percentage of high-tech jobs; and

WHEREAS, the training facility and the jobs affiliated with it, strengthens Beaufort County's ability to attract more private investment and high tech jobs.

WHEREAS, the combination of the training facility and the operational squadrons will strengthen MCAS Beaufort's position in future BRACs.

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense is expected to make its final basing decision for the F-35B in December 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Bluffton hereby wholeheartedly supports locating the two training squadrons and three operational squadrons at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Bluffton pledges its full support to Operation F35Beaufort to support MCAS as the best location for two training squadrons and three operational squadrons.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this 20th day of July, 2010.

Mayor Lisa Sulka